

DRAFT MINUTES

**U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
1110 Vermont Avenue, Suite 810
Washington, DC**

May 7 and 9, 1997

Commissioners present	Jeanne Hurley Simon, Chairperson, Martha Gould, Vice Chair, "Abe" Abramson, Walter Anderson (7th only), Winston Tabb, Joan Challinor, Carl DiPrete, Diane Frankel (7th only), Mary Furlong (7th only), José-Marie Griffiths, Commissioner-Designee, Frank Lucchino, Bobby Roberts, Gary Sudduth, and Robert Willard
Commissioners not present	Shirley Adamovich, LeVar Burton
Staff present	Peter R. Young, John Lorenz, Kim Miller, Jane Williams; and Barbara Whiteleather, Recording Secretary
Guests/observers present	Jean Baronas, Communication Standards, Xerox Corporation; Isa Bauerline, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS); Beth Bingham, Liaison, White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST), Louisiana Library Association; Mamie Bitner, IMLS; Rebecca Danvers, IMLS; Blane Dessy, Liaison, National Library of Education, Department of Education (ED); Susan Erdeky, Office of General Counsel, ED; Carol Henderson, Liaison, American Library Association; Alan Inouye, National Research Council; Robert Klassen, Library Programs, IMLS; Bridget Lamont, Liaison, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies; Peyton Neal, Liaison, Information Industry Association; Mike Shapiro, General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); Tania Said, IMLS; Nancy Weiss, General Counsel, NEH

[The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) met May 7 and 9, 1997. As part of its new responsibility to give general policy advice on the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), NCLIS met May 8 with the National Museum Services Board. Both groups are to advise the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on cooperative efforts between libraries and museums. NCLIS also advises on all other aspects of the LSTA as well. The Institute of Museum and Library Services will provide minutes of the May 8 meeting.]

May 7, 1997

Opening Comments

Chairperson Simon called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and welcomed the Commissioners, staff, guests, and observers.

Executive Director's Report

Peter R. Young announced that he will leave the Commission on May 30 to direct the Cataloging Distribution Service at the Library of Congress. Chairperson Simon expressed regret and acknowledged Mr. Young's leadership and notable contributions during his seven years as Executive Director. Mr. Young outlined current NCLIS program priorities:

1. Recruitment and selection of a new Executive Director, via a national search;
2. Government Printing Office study, assessing standards for electronic government information;
3. Working with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and advising on the Library Services and Technology Act;
4. 1997 Survey of Public Libraries and the Internet;
5. International Federation of Library Associations' 1997 meeting in Copenhagen (policy for the global information infrastructure); and
6. Overseeing the Library Statistics Program (now in its tenth year).

Mr. Young also announced tentative plans (over the next few years) for a NCLIS/Library of Congress (LC) partnership to celebrate LC's bicentennial.

With the press of time, the May 7 Executive Director's report was abbreviated. However, Mr. Young will prepare a detailed report upon his departure.

Mr. Young stated, "I am looking forward to going to the Library of Congress. This is a position that I have been interested in for a number of years and one that directly relates to my interests. I have spent half of my career in libraries and library-related works (such as the Commission). The other half of my career has been in the private sector. I am interested in joining the national library and pursuing this relationships with the private sector and other libraries, globally. I truly believe that a National Library is a national treasure and, as Dr. Billington has said, 'Letting the champagne out of the bottle is a really important thing.' I hope to be able to pass out some glasses for that champagne in the future."

The Chairperson accepted Mr. Young's resignation with much regret and named Jane Williams, NCLIS Research Associate, as Acting Executive Director.

The Commissioners, staff, guests, and observers applauded Peter Young.

MOTION

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Joan Challinor, that, with regret, the Commission accepts the resignation of Peter R. Young and, with a great deal of pleasure, endorses the Chairperson's appointment of Jane Williams as Acting Executive Director.

The motion was unanimous.

Jane Williams responded, "... I have worked in college, university, and public libraries. For almost 10 years I directed the State Library of North Carolina before moving to Washington, DC. I am a planner and a manager. I am very pragmatic and outspoken. I pledge to you to do whatever I can. I have three objectives. They are over-arching objectives that go beyond the Commission's list of tasks developed for the interim period:

- Objective 1 To foster healthy working relationships with and among all Commissioners.
- Objective 2 To encourage Commissioners' interests, involvement and intellectual engagement in the Commission's business.
- Objective 3 To help Commissioners do what's useful.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Simon announced that she has been named Adjunct Professor at Southern Illinois University.

Her recent activities include:

- The American Library Association winter meeting;
- Presentation at the American Council on Education (a first for a library panel);
- The Federal-State Cooperative Statistics Library Data Coordinators meeting;
- White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning, with Commissioner Challinor;
- Testimony before House Appropriations Committee with Chairman John Porter;
- Speaker, University of Chicago Library;
- Dinner meeting, Illinois Library Association honoring Paul Simon;
- Speaker, Library Trustees, Pittsburgh, PA. (with Commissioner Lucchino)

Chairperson Simon reported that the President may extend her appointment and the appointments of Commissioners Gould and Sudduth.

Draft Agenda

MOTION

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Joan Challinor, to revise the draft NCLIS meeting agenda. Items 4, 5, and 6 (under 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.) will be discussed during lunch to allow time for Personnel Committee report.

The motion carried. Commissioner Abramson abstained.

Personnel Committee Report

NCLIS Personnel Committee Chair Gould announced that a draft statement for the recruitment and selection announcement and a press release announcing Mr. Young's resignation have been prepared. The Department of Education will review the announcement before its released in May/June.

The Personnel Committee created a Search Committee and requested volunteers. Commissioner Challinor and Commissioner-Designee Griffiths volunteered. The Search Committee is: Martha Gould, Chair; Joan Challinor; José-Marie Griffiths; Gary Sudduth; Joel Valdez; and Robert Willard. The Committee was charged to develop a list of criteria and questions for use in the search and the interviews.

Ethics Training

Susan Erdeky, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of Education, conducted the annual ethics training for Commissioners, focusing on:

- Conflict of interest, with special emphasis on new responsibilities under the Museum and Library Services Act,
- Appearance concerns (a regulatory matter),
- Search for new Executive Director, and
- Political activities.

Approval of NCLIS Minutes

The draft NCLIS minutes, December 12-13, 1996, will be corrected as follows:

- Page 5, 2nd paragraph, 3rd line: Change "In addition, Ms. Frankel and Peter Young hold regular meetings," to "In addition, Ms. Frankel and Peter Young have been holding meetings".
- Page 9, last paragraph, 2nd line: To clarify statement, change from "... when an original document is reduced to electronic form, it solves preservation problems" to "... when an original document is reduced to electronic form, it potentially solves preservation problems".
- Page 10, 4th paragraph, 1st line: Correct the spelling of Dr. Griffiths' name.
- Page 6, first sentence. To clarify the meaning of the "IMLS Board" add the following sentence: "The IMLS Board is the combination of the National Museum Services Board and NCLIS which meets at least once annually."

MOTION

It was moved by Frank Lucchino, seconded by Mary Furlong, that the NCLIS meeting minutes, December 12-13, 1996, be approved as corrected.

The motion carried.

Presentation of Standards for Electronic Government Information

Chairperson Simon introduced Alan Inouye, National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences. Mr. Inouye has been designated by NRC to assist the Commission in the GPO/NCLIS *Assessment of Standards for the Creation, Dissemination, and Permanent Accessibility of Electronic Government Information*

Products. Mr. Inouye will develop Phase I: Statement of Work. Mr. Young reported that the transfer (by means of an interagency agreement) of \$200,000 from GPO to NCLIS for performing this study is nearing completion.

At the Chairperson's request, Commissioner Willard serves as NCLIS liaison for this study. He reported that representatives from GPO, NCLIS, and the Computer Sciences and Telecommunications Board have met.

Commissioner Willard stated that the Senate leadership, and specifically Senator John Warner, has decided that it is time to introduce legislation to modernize the basic law under which GPO operates. The Public Printer is appointed by the President with Senate confirmation and serves at the pleasure of the President. The major constitutional question on the separation of powers is what is the role of GPO, a legislative branch agency, with regard to printing executive documents? Title 44 clearly states that GPO is the required printer for federal publications.

NCLIS is pushing forward the GPO/NCLIS assessment study to focus on very important questions, e.g.: (1) What are the electronic standards that will facilitate the creation, dissemination, and long-term access to information?; and/or (2) Can you establish standards so that the people will have access to information in a uniform and effective way, without freezing technology? Commissioner Willard believes that there will not be the costs savings proposed, but there will be societal improvement and greater access and functionality of government information. NCLIS has a statutory responsibility to assure that the public's need for government information are met.

The three major thrusts contained in the Title 44 draft legislation are: (1) Moving the GPO from the Legislative Branch into the Executive Branch; (2) Copyright issues; and (3) Penalties on government employees for failure to comply with the requirements to make government information available. Hearings are scheduled for May 8. Plans call for the President's signature on the legislation by September/October 1997. "This is not an easy process we have begun," Mr. Willard concluded.

Mr. Young added that part of Alan Inouye's charge will be to pose the question: What information does the government need in order to successfully achieve the transition to a more electronic system?

The Chairperson asked Carol Henderson, Executive Director of the ALA Washington Office, to speak to this issue. Ms. Henderson offered that several basic points will be heard at the May 8 hearing:

1. To commend this Congressional effort to revise the law;
2. To commend the efforts to strengthen the Federal Depository Library Program to preserve the public-domain aspect of government information; and

3. To alert Congress to some of the oddities in the process of government-funded research publications.

Carol Henderson continued, "We reserve judgment in our testimony on the solution to the constitutional questions. There is a strong desire by the library community to have a system in which government information from all three branches is coordinated and easily available. We think that if it is decentralized to individual agencies throughout all three branches, prominent and continuous access would be very difficult. When information disappears from a federal web page after six months, what happens to it? Where is it available?

"We feel that Congress needs a very strong and direct role in something as central to democracy as provision of the government's own information. A strong congressional role, while still trying to solve the constitutional questions, is important. We did not necessarily, absolutely oppose moving GPO from one place to another, but we are concerned that if it were moved that it retain some features that would truly assure its independence and its ability to be served by and work with all three branches of government. These are not easy issues to solve."

Commissioner Abramson opined that GPO should become an independent agency, staying within the Legislative Branch.

After discussion, the following motion was introduced:

MOTION

It was moved by Robert Willard, seconded by Martha Gould, that NCLIS staff proceed with the study authorized in the July 1996 NCLIS resolution, working with the National Academy of Sciences. Further, NCLIS staff has authority to obligate funds for Phase I of this project.

The motion was unanimous.

Commissioner Abramson questioned administrative overhead costs contained in the GPO/NCLIS Interagency Agreement. Mr. Young recommended that portions of the funds transferred to NCLIS for the study be used to reimburse Commissioner travel to a final convening meeting, planned for September 1997. The purposes for this meeting are to review the final products from Phase II, and to discuss specific recommendations with experts. The Commission approved Mr. Young's recommendation. At Commissioner Abramson's request, staff will prepare a *Memorandum for the Files* detailing the arrangements/negotiations between Mr. Young and GPO representatives.

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Commissioner Anderson asked Commissioner Frankel why she prefers to work directly with the NCLIS Chairperson rather than with or through the NCLIS Executive Director. Commissioner Frankel responded that, as a presidential appointee, she has an informal working relationship with Peter Young and considers the NCLIS Chairperson as her formal point of contact. The Chairperson responded that this type of working arrangement is Commissioner Frankel's decision and privilege.

Resolution Honoring Peter R. Young

Chairperson Simon offered a resolution honoring Peter R. Young and expressing deep appreciation and strong admiration for his many valuable and noteworthy contributions. The full text of the resolution is attached. (Attachment I)

MOTION

It was moved by Jeanne H. Simon, seconded by Walter Anderson, that the resolution be adopted as presented.

The motion was unanimous.

In summary, Chairperson Simon said, "This resolution does not begin to express the feelings we have for you or for your service over the last seven years. We realize that this is an opportunity for you, and we wish you well. [Applause]

Mr. Young expressed his appreciation, stating, "Working with the Commissioners has been an honor and a privilege which I appreciate. This is the longest position I have held, and I have enjoyed my tenure. I have gained much more from you than you have from me."

Commissioners' Activities, Concerns, and Interests

Highlights of Commissioner activities since the December 1996 NCLIS meeting include:

- In **Commissioner Burton's** absence, Chairperson Simon noted an article which appeared in USA Today, May 2-4, 1997, by LeVar Burton. The article is entitled, "Schools, libraries need discount on-line charges". [See NCLIS I.D. #97-25]
- As speaker at the American Association of School Librarians National Conference, April 3, Portland, OR, **Vice Chair Gould** encouraged all to "Stand up, speak out, and raise a little hell" for school libraries — the core of education.

Vice Chair Gould recently completed teaching a distance education class using compressed video and remote sites. The farthest students were in Hawthorne, NV, 250 miles away. The class subject was administration of school and small public libraries.

Commissioner Anderson recently completed teaching a confidence course at the New School for Social Research in New York City. He was also keynote speaker at the Title I Director's meeting at the National Reading Association in Atlanta, May 6. "And," Commissioner Anderson said, "they absolutely know who the Commission is!"

He will present another speech in Colorado Springs on May 12 in recognition of the 150-year-old newspaper. Mr. Anderson will also participate in the day's community events.

On June 28, he will be keynote speaker at the American Library Association, Opening General Session, San Francisco, CA. Commissioner Anderson hopes to have a special surprise visitor on stage.

Commissioner Anderson continues promoting his book, The Confidence Course, -- *The Most Important Class You Never Took in School* -- which is now in its fifth printing.

- **Commissioner Abramson** attended the Montana Library Association Annual Conference, Great Falls. He also attended the pre-conference on budgeting for small public libraries, and a session on public library foundations.

The Mountain Plains Museum Association's Annual Conference will be held in his hometown of Missoula, MT, October 2-5, 1997. Commissioner Abramson noted that both Chairperson Simon and Diane Frankel plan to attend.

- **Commissioner Willard** recently chaired a fund-raising dinner at the U.S. Supreme Court for the Law Library of Congress. **Commissioner Challnor** attended.
- **Commissioner-Designee Griffiths** was invited to be Lazarow Lecturer on national and international information policy at Rosary College; River Forest, IL, spoke at the Michigan Council of Depository Librarians on Title 44; and attended the Coalition for Networked Information spring meeting.
- **Commissioner Roberts** has been heavily involved in the construction of four new public libraries, planning for the Clinton Presidential Library, and construction of the new main library to open in September. The library is 160,000 square feet -- the largest municipal building ever constructed in Arkansas.

Commissioner Roberts expressed his concern regarding censorship and the Internet, about which libraries seem to be taking an 'either/or' position. Commissioner Roberts stated, "What worries me is that the answer from the political powers seems to be in filtering software. This does not solve the problem! This is a professional library issue, and I do not see the leadership of the library associations stepping forward. This is a serious issue, and an agenda item in need of this Commission's attention." Commissioner Anderson agreed, stating, "One child's life is worth more than the freedom to get on the World Wide Web. You protect a child in your library; you can protect the child on the Web. This is a major issue!"

- **Commissioner DiPrete** is teaching library administration at the University of Rhode Island. She plans to attend ALA in San Francisco and is Chair of the ALA Pay Equity Committee.

Noting that her full-term term has expired, Commissioner DiPrete expressed her pleasure at having had the opportunity to serve NCLIS.

- **Commissioner Valdez** is working in Arizona to protect the public libraries during this time of political upheaval.
- **Commissioner Sudduth** continues to struggle with questions of Internet use and welfare reform.
- **Commissioner Furlong's** new company is Third Age Media formed as Global Senior Network. She recently opened Third Age News Service (serving over 200 newspapers) in Washington. Commissioner Furlong will author a Third Age News column in Modern Maturity.
- **Commissioner Lucchino** as Controller, County of Allegheny, Pittsburgh, recently appeared on Frontline, *The Last Honest Politician in America*.

Allegheny County recently held its grand opening of the Electronic Information Network — a network linking all 42 public libraries in the County with 1,300 workstations. The County's bookmobile is also wired by cellular telephone to allow for sufficient workstations. However, Commissioner Lucchino noted, there remain some public libraries that do not want to lend outside their jurisdiction. And, this issue has nothing to do with cost. "We, as a Commission, must find a way to convince people that universality of knowledge and accessibility to informational material benefit the entire society." Chairperson Simon suggested this topic be considered for a future agenda item.

- **Commissioner Challinor** visited Argentina, including a rural library in Patagonia, in January 1997. "Their problems are exactly the same as ours -- from lack of computers and workstations to children watching too much television," she said.

Commissioner Challinor was involved with the White House conference, *Prescription to Read*. The program — started by doctors — calls for pediatricians to emphasize to mothers-to-be the importance of preschool reading to a child's brain. Chairperson Simon and Commissioner Willard also attended. Commissioner Challinor also attended a meeting the following day at the White House on *Early Childhood and the Brain*.

Commissioner Challinor (Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Radcliffe College) attended a monthly luncheon with heads of libraries at Harvard University, where discussion centered around the problems of preservation. Europeans are very concerned about Internet access and the proliferation of indecent material. Commissioner Challinor echoed Commissioner Anderson's concern in this area.

Commissioner Anderson offered to bring someone to an NCLIS hearing to advise the Commission on the Internet. This person's counsel could help the Commission formulate a stand that both respects the First Amendment and protects the children. Chairperson Simon offered to confer with the Vice Chair and Commissioner Anderson regarding this suggestion. Commissioner Roberts supported a hearing on this topic.

In summary, Commissioner Furlong urged the Commissioners to determine the linchpins necessary to reach a wider voice to express concerns and interests in censorship, child-advocacy rights, preservation, intellectual property, and access. "It is a challenge for this Commission to inform more people through framing issues and dialogues; perhaps through our web page, and to be connected to these issues at a global policy level," she suggested. Chairperson Simon replied that the upcoming NCLIS forum on information policies for the Global Information Infrastructure, held in conjunction with the IFLA conference in Copenhagen, 31 August - 5 September, 1997, is one such avenue for sharing information globally.

Commissioner Anderson stated, "I am actively trying to influence the Commission to take a public stand in support of protecting children from pedophiles. . . I am lobbying for unknown children."

Survey of Public Library Internet Use

Mr. Young reported that the American Library Association/NCLIS national survey of public library Internet use was mailed on May 5. This study builds and expands upon the Commission's 1994-96 studies of public library Internet use and costs.

The study sample uses a complex weighting scheme, drawn by the National Center for Education Statistics, to make national estimates. Each selected library (2,000 in all) represents numerous other public libraries with similar characteristics (e.g., region, population of legal service area, and rural/urban designation). Commissioners were urged to encourage their respective libraries to participate in the survey. An 85 percent response rate is expected.

Institute of Museum and Library Services Report

Diane Frankel emphasized that throughout the transition period (October 1996 to date) the library community has been very responsive, receptive, and generous in all discussions.

The draft 1998 Guidelines on the National Leadership Grants have been issued for comment. The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) have particular concern regarding the evaluations of state plans and have established a subcommittee. Commissioner Furlong suggested that graduate students, perhaps from MIT, could be a good source for evaluating plans.

In addition, the NCES/NCLIS Library and Information Services Policy Forum, now scheduled for September 15 - 16, 1997, will focus on the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), State Grant Program: *Data Needs and Implications*. Mr. Klassen reminded the Members that the May 8 agenda of the National Museum Services Board/NCLIS calls for discussion of the National Leadership Initiatives.

Commissioner Furlong also suggested informal meetings between the Chairperson, Jane Williams, and individuals such as Mike Nelson and Dave Barram to identify corporations to support the statewide efforts and initiatives contained in the five-year plans. Commissioner Furlong expressed her concern that many interesting initiatives are being planned state-by-state with the vision of future technology and suggested such meetings could help articulate and advance the states' agendas.

IMLS staff and Library Programs (Department of Education) staff are working closely together, with 6 of 20 LP staff members moving to IMLS in July. IMLS vacancies are being posted, and office renovations should be completed by June 23. Announcement is expected soon for the Deputy Director position, for which the application deadline will be July 15. The person hired will head the Office of Library Services. NCLIS and Ms. Frankel offered to share information on the two searches.

Robert Klassen discussed the discretionary grants program process and cycle. To date, 14 states have submitted their five-year plans for enhancing technology and information services. Those plans are being reviewed to assure LSTA compliance. Awards will be made after October 1, 1997. At Commissioner Furlong's request, upon receipt of all state plans, Mr. Klassen offered to prepare an abstract of those state plans with distinct characteristics.

Commissioner Furlong suggested that Bill Gates and/or his wife Melinda could play a leadership role in partnership with other high-tech corporations to support various statewide initiatives and visions. It has been said that within the next ten years the Gates expect to donate 95 percent of their fortune and are now exploring potential worthwhile projects. "And libraries are a good first step. It has even been suggested that Bill Gates become the new Andrew Carnegie," she said.

Commissioner Anderson questioned NCLIS' role and responsibilities regarding LSTA. Ms. Frankel noted that neither guidelines nor regulations have been written for Indian tribes. This would be a unique and distinct area for NCLIS advice, given its past experience and research in library and information services for Native Americans.

For clarification, Commissioner Anderson asked Ms. Frankel to define the difference between advice received from NMSB and NCLIS. Ms. Frankel replied that there is virtually no distinction. Both groups formally advise the Director.

Commissioner Anderson suggested that it would be viewed as a positive step if the MLS Director worked directly with the NCLIS Executive Director rather than with the NCLIS Chairperson. Mr. Lucchino agreed, adding that this procedure would set the stage for the future. Ms. Frankel stated that she was appointed by the President to serve as the IMLS Director until the next person, from libraries, is appointed. "The reality is that whoever sits in this seat is a presidential appointee, just as are NCLIS Members. . . I want to make sure that the lines of demarcation are carefully understood. The precedent that we are setting regarding the way we go about our work, I take very seriously. . . The person sitting as IMLS Director has a huge responsibility. . . I take very carefully and sensibly what people say. . . I am not about go off to the left when you are heading to the right. . . We are going to negotiate how we are going to go forward as an agency. . . It takes great skill to be willing to listen, to talk, and to give each other the latitude that it takes to make it work. And, it is going to take a lot of latitude on all points," she stated.

Commissioner Anderson asked, "Have you recognized the Commission's feeling regarding the IMLS Director working directly with the NCLIS Executive Director?" Ms. Frankel replied, "Yes. . . My role is to work informally with the Executive Director of the Commission. And, I have said that from the very beginning. My real official role is to work with the Chair of the Commission, just as I work with the Chair of the NMSB. There is really a 'firewall' between what the Members do as a Commission and what they do as Members of the advisory board to IMLS. It is very important to understand the informality of that relationship [with the NCLIS Executive Director].

"The reality is that I must have access to the NCLIS Chairperson. Just as I want to pick up the telephone and call each of the Commissioners and visit you in your offices, and just as I want you to pick up the telephone and call me regarding museum-

library work. That is critically important. You now have an additional staff. And, you have an obligation to work with those people. . . because your collective wisdom is very important to this agency. . . There are formal relationships in life and there are informal relationships. I with you have a formal relationship.”

Attempting to clarify the administrative confusion, organizational structure, and responsibility between IMLS and NCLIS, Ms. Frankel pointed out that NCLIS Members now have two distinct functions: (1) NCLIS Members with a staff and reporting to Congress and the President on library and information services policy; and (2) Advisory Members to IMLS with a separate staff to serve them.

In summary, Chairperson Simon said to Ms. Frankel, “I want this relationship to work. Whatever you want to do, I will go along with. But, you must remember, we are the National Commission. We are a separate, independent body. We have been working very well together, and we do not want to disturb that relationships when we wear another hat. I would prefer you to work with the Executive Director of our Commission. This would be a better arrangement for us, and one that our staff would appreciate. If you say this is the way it is going to be, I cannot change your mind. I think you have a sense of how the Commission feels. I will cooperate. Just remember that the real work is being done by the Commission staff in Washington -- I advise from 900 miles away by e-mail and telephone. . . I take this added responsibility very seriously. It disturbs me to know that I will have to rely on e-mail and telephone conferences when an NCLIS Executive Director could do the job much better, filter it through, and hand it back to me.”

Ms. Frankel stated, “The NCLIS staff has no responsibility for the grant program. I must speak to your representative as the head of the Commission in dealing with grant program issues. It is the responsibility of the NCLIS Chairperson to work with me and my staff relating to this program. I do not mean to be hard-handed regarding this issue, but the person who sits as NCLIS Executive Director has no authority to speak on behalf of the Commission in advising me. You would be remiss, and I would be remiss, if I did not speak to the Chair. The Chairperson, however, can delegate this responsibility to the Vice Chair.” Commissioner Abramson noted that the Chairperson can delegate authority (though not responsibility) to the NCLIS Executive Director. “And,” he added, “that is what we are suggesting.”

The Chairperson then suggested adding a paragraph to the position description for the new NCLIS Executive Director stating, “The NCLIS Chairperson delegates authority through the Executive Director to work with the IMLS Director.” Commissioner Furlong urged a sense of trust, team-work, and learning in determining where the lines of authority lie.

Commissioner Willard acknowledged that when NCLIS Members serve as with the National Museum Services Board, they are devoid of NCLIS responsibilities. The NCLIS Executive Director serves as a back-up or aide to the Chairperson, bringing

additional depths of knowledge. In time, the Chairperson may begin to look to the IMLS staff to provide input on the issues specifically germane to IMLS.

Chairperson Simon stated, "The Commissioners are devoted to libraries and information services. We have been working together so long, and we intend to go on working with you, Diane." Ms. Frankel thanked the Commissioners.

Friday, May 9, 1997

The NCLIS Personnel Committee met from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Chairperson Simon called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. She thanked the Commissioners for participating in the first meeting with the National Museum Services Board.

White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce

Beth Bingham, Secretary, White House Conference and Library Services Taskforce (WHCLIST), presented an update on recent WHCLIST activities. In August 1996 WHCLIST membership passed a resolution issuing a call to library organizations and other interested parties to convene a planning group to discuss a national citizens-based program building on the strengths of the two White House Conferences.

Ms. Bingham reported the WHCLIST Executive Committee has concluded that the timing for such a meeting is not right and that little interest in even discussing such a meeting has been received (less than 2 percent). As a result, Claude Blakely, WHCLIST Chair, has announced the disbanding of the summit planning sub-committee, as well as the WHCLIST III Committee on April 19, 1997.

Ms. Bingham noted that WHCLIST has been effective in creating, building, and maintaining a legislative hotline. "At present," she stated, "no other library organization appears to have an ongoing, effective legislative hotline in place for the broad issues confronting us. Is this the role that WHCLIST should continue to play?" She called attention to the April 18, 1997 letter from Claude Blakely detailing WHCLIST activities (Tab I, NCLIS meeting notebook).

Chairperson Simon thanked Ms. Bingham for providing detailed reports at NCLIS meetings. The Commission applauded Ms. Bingham's service as NCLIS liaison for WHCLIST.

MOTION

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Joan Challinor, that the Commission commends the Members of WHCLIST for their years of dedication, work, and support at the grassroots level given to the needs of all types of libraries in this country where needed.

The motion was unanimous.

Universal Service

Peyton Neal, NCLIS Liaison, Information Industry Association, reported that on May 7 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decided on rules which provide for significant discounts on telecommunication services for the nation's libraries and schools. The discounts range from 20 to 90 percent, with the deeper discounts for libraries and schools in rural, high-cost and low-income communities. The discounts are expected to provide up to \$2.25 billion annually beginning January 1, 1998. Carol Henderson added that each state will have to have its own process to implement the universal service program at the state level.

Hearings on Government Information

Mr. Neal also reported on hearings held on May 8 to consider the role of the Government Printing Office in disseminating government information. He noted the timely reform of Title 44 and urged NCLIS' continued involvement and influence.

Commissioner Willard distributed copies of the May 8, 1997, Information Industry Association (IIA) press release which states that government information should be available to all. He quoted IIA President Ron Dunn, "It is the IIA's conviction that government information should be made available by government to any user, without restrictions, under equal terms and conditions." See Attachment II.

Chairperson Simon appointed Commissioner Willard to serve as NCLIS liaison for Title 44 and the NCLIS-GPO interagency agreement.

NCLIS/NMSB Meeting

Commissioner Lucchino suggested that the Commission take official action to confirm the decision made at the first meeting of the NCLIS/NMSB and to preserve the Commission's prerogative to provide advice on P.L. 104-208 as it applies to Sec. 262(a)(1), (2), and (3). Further, to clarify the language of P.L. 104-208, the Museum and Library Services Act, Commissioner Lucchino introduced the following motion:

MOTION

It was moved by Frank Lucchino, seconded by Abe Abramson, that because the language of the statute (P.L. 104-208) in Sec. 703(c)(1) specifies that the purpose of the joint meeting between the Commission and the National Museum Services Board is to provide advice regarding section 262(a)(4), that the advice given on the draft Guidelines discussed at the joint meeting on May 8, 1997, be also confirmed by the Commission as it applies to Sec. 262 (a) (1), (2), and (3), and that such advice be transmitted to the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The motion was unanimous.

Commissioner Roberts offered the following motion:

MOTION

It was moved by Bobby Roberts, seconded by Martha Gould, that NCLIS seek legal clarification as to whether the joint meeting is to provide advice on general policy with respect to financial assistance for projects described in Section 262 (a) (4) or whether the joint meeting is to provide advice on general policy with respect to financial assistance for projects described in section 262(a)(1), (2), and (3). Further, NCLIS seek such legal interpretation from the Department of Education's Office of General Counsel or a licensed attorney.

The motion was unanimous.

"It may prove to be a wedge into the NCLIS/IMLS relationship, but we must protect the integrity of NCLIS," Commissioner Roberts stated. Vice Chair Gould stated the importance of establishing official and legal parameters.

Commissioner-Designee Griffiths expressed her concern regarding the peer review process and composition of the peer review panels.

MOTION

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Carol DiPrete, that the composition of the peer review panels for the National Leadership Grants, Section 262(a)(1), (2), and (3), be in the purview of the library and information services field. Further, the Commission will express its concerns regarding the peer review process and composition of the peer review panel to the IMLS Director.

The motion was unanimous.

Chairperson Simon appointed Commissioners Joan Challinor and Robert Willard to serve as NCLIS liaisons/representatives to the National Museum Services Board.

International Contributions for Scientific, Educational, and Cultural Activities

Peter Young reported that letters notifying proposing organizations of 1997 State Department ICSECA (International Contributions for Scientific, Educational, and Cultural Activities) contributions are being sent. NCLIS plans to use ICSECA funds (up to \$27,000) to conduct an international cooperative forum on information policies for the Global Information Infrastructure to be held in conjunction with the IFLA conference in Copenhagen, August 31 - September 5, 1997. Commissioner Lucchino cautioned that there are many competing meetings, conferences, forums, etc. during IFLA. To assure attendance, the forum must have both application, a complete description of the subject, and fit into the IFLA program (rather than featured as a pre- or post-event). Mr. Tabb offered to work closely with NCLIS Members and staff to assure the forum's integration into the IFLA program. Mr. Tabb noted that the second meeting of the G-7 Global Libraries Project will be held during IFLA and offered to include NCLIS if possible.

Commissioners attending IFLA with State Department funding are: Abe Abramson, Martha Gould, Mary Furlong, José-Marie Griffiths, and Gary Sudduth. Chairperson Simon asked Commissioner-Designee Griffith to serve as forum chair, pending her Senate confirmation to NCLIS.

Personnel Committee Report

Chairperson Simon authorized Jane Williams, as Acting Executive Director, full authority to hire outside consultant(s). Ms. Williams acknowledged that outside help may be needed to assist with ongoing NCLIS programs and projects, e.g., the IFLA forum and NCLIS/GPO interagency agreement.

Personnel Committee Chair Gould outlined the schedule for recruitment and selection of the NCLIS Executive Director. A copy of the table containing time, tasks, and lead people is Attachment III.

Future NCLIS Meetings

Commissioners reviewed proposals for NCLIS meetings in FY 1998 and for the third NCLIS meeting in FY 1997, contained in the NCLIS notebook, Tab H.

Commissioner Lucchino urged meetings held outside of the Washington, DC area, partnering with appropriate organizations and/or conferences. Commissioner Roberts noted that the Southeastern Library Association (SELA) will be held in Little

Rock in September 1998 and suggested a joint meeting. In addition, the new Presidential Library may be opened by then.

It was decided to possibly hold a June conference call to discuss future meeting dates and locations.

Library Statistics Program

John Lorenz, Library Statistics Program (LSP) Coordinator announced that he will retire (for the third time) on September 30, 1997.

This is LSP's tenth anniversary. Over this time, the program has grown to include annual public library survey, biennial academic survey, triennial school library media survey (part of the major NCES school and staffing survey), annual state library survey, federal library survey, and library cooperatives survey. LSP has also led the way in developing cooperative aspects of national data collection by creating steering and advisory committees composed of state data coordinators, library administrators, researchers, and statisticians to improve the survey process and encourage the use of the national data.

The electronic reporting, editing, and publication of the data has greatly improved its quality over the last ten years. A major disappointment, however, has been in not speeding up the process from the initial survey reporting of the data to the actual publication and electronic availability of the national data. But, even here, there is hope for continuing improvement.

The fourth annual NCES/NCLIS library and information services policies forum will be held this September. The objective of these forums is to continue to improve national statistics and their application to library policy, development, and research. The 1997 forum will focus on the data needs and implications relating to the Library Services and Technology Act, since this is the newest and most important innovation and source of federal funding in the library field.

"All of this has been a gratifying experience to me during my 57-year career. Family needs require me and my wife to change our location, and to be near our daughter in Sherwood Oaks, Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania. I have seen many national commissions come and go. This is a very good Commission. It is a Commission with more fun, good humor, and spirit of cooperation and consultation than any other I have been connected with. I leave you with an Irish blessing: *May you have health, love, and money -- and the time -- to enjoy them all*," Mr. Lorenz said. Mr. Lorenz received a standing ovation in recognition of his distinguished professional career.

NCLIS Audit Report

Peter Young reported that the FY 1996 audit report is nearing completion and will be sent to all Commissioners as an Information Document.

Vice Chair Serves as Chairperson

Because Chairperson Simon had to leave, Vice Chair Martha Gould served as Chairperson for the remainder of the meeting.

NCLIS Regulations

Peter Young and Jane Williams plan to meet with an attorney from the Department of Education to discuss updating the NCLIS regulations. Draft federal regulations must be published in the Federal Register with a 90-day comment period.

Commissioner Abramson suggested that the ED attorney be asked to review NCLIS' public law and amendments to clarify:

- (1) That the representative for the Librarian of Congress serves as a voting member.
- (2) A four-word phrase, "term and at least," in P.L. 104-208, referring to NCLIS membership, that does not fit into NCLIS' 1970 or 1991 laws.
- (3) Language to conform to salary above GS-18 level for consultants.

Commissioner Roberts reiterated the need for NCLIS by-laws, rules, and regulations.

Library Services and Technology Act

A future meeting topic: *Review IMLS strategic plan (Library Programs) in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA).*

Mr. Young cautioned that when the revised discretionary grant programs guidelines are published in the Federal Register, an adverse reaction may be received from the library community. The library community as a whole is not fully aware of the Commission's involvement with the LSTA. Commissioner Roberts stressed that the Commission is at a disadvantage when commenting first. "It is always good to go last. NCLIS goes first, and, tacitly, that places you in a corner -- which is where we may now be. We should be in a position to hear the opposition first. We are at a disadvantage when not hearing first from the communities," he suggested.

Vice Chair Gould suggested that Commission staff request comments received on the LSTA guidelines to get a handle on the position of the library community. The Commissioners agreed with this suggestion, and staff will pursue this suggestion with the IMLS Director. Ms. Henderson noted that the responsible agency must make public comments available for review. Further, the final guidelines will contain a summary of the comments. Ms. Williams suggested advanced, year-in, year-out planning, rather than reactive reaction to the process.

Commissioners Roberts and Abramson questioned the appropriateness in stamping the word 'confidential' on the draft National Leadership Grant guidelines.

NCLIS//IMLS

Vice Chair Gould stated that the meetings over the last three days have clearly shown the need for improved two-way communication between NCLIS and IMLS. Mr. Young reported that he has been attending bi-weekly IMLS senior staff meetings.

Other Business

Commissioner Abramson requested that NCLIS staff pursue the possibility of acquiring AT&T telephone credit cards as the current Bell Atlantic cards do not work well in the West.

Carol Henderson, ALA, echoed the Commission's appreciation of Peter R. Young. "He has been a real asset and help. The library community at large, and certainly the American Library Association, will miss him," she said. Ms. Henderson also expressed great confidence in the Jane William's ability to carry on the work of the Commission.

Tania Said, IMLS staff, thanked the Commission for the opportunity to sit as observer and expressed her willingness to help assure open communication between the two agencies.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Attachments

- (I) Resolution Honoring Peter R. Young
- (II) IIA Press Release dated May 8, 1997
- (III) Recruitment and Selection of Executive Director



U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

RESOLUTION
HONORING
PETER R. YOUNG

WHEREAS Peter R. Young has served with distinction and enthusiasm as Executive Director of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) since August 1990; and

WHEREAS through his knowledge, experience, imagination, presentation, and staff direction, Peter Young has achieved a greater and wider network of support for the Commission and its mandate, goals, programs, and plans; and

WHEREAS his creative thinking, efficient execution, and untiring commitment have directly led to furthering the work of the Commission, including expanded and new government information and public library-Internet surveys and productive relationships with other agencies, the Congress, library and information associations, and other groups.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Commissioners and staff express their deep appreciation and strong admiration for his many valuable and noteworthy contributions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Members and staff of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information will miss Peter's analytic and wordsmith abilities, as well as his sense of humor, and hereby send our colleague and friend on his way with accolades and ever-lasting best wishes.

Unanimously adopted by the Members of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science on 7 May 1997.



INFORMATION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sheri Rene Robey
202/986-0280**GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL:
INFORMATION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION TESTIFIES
BEFORE SENATE AND HOUSE**

Washington, D.C. -- May 8, 1997 -- To encourage widespread availability of government information, the Information Industry Association (IIA) presented its views about laws that affect the public's access to government information in two appearances before congressional committees today.

Speaking before the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, IIA President Ron Dunn stated the Association's conviction that "government information should be made available by government to any user, without restrictions, under equal terms and conditions."

Testifying on behalf of IIA before the House Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, Daniel S. Jones, President of NewsBank, inc., an IIA member company, told Congress that "a vibrant and competitive private sector information industry is key to the efficient functioning of today's service-based economy."

Both the Senate Committee and the House Subcommittee are considering the role of the Government Printing Office ("GPO") in disseminating government information. IIA was invited to participate because of its long-standing commitment to sound government information policies. The Association was a key supporter of the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (PRA), the landmark federal statute that lays out clear guidelines and principles for executive branch agencies to follow when making information available to the general public.

Dunn declared that "maximizing citizen access to government information through a diversity of sources is not simply good public policy -- it is vital to the maintenance of an

(over)

open society and a democratic form of government.” He said that PRA mandates that government agencies promote a diversity of sources for all tax-payer funded information and refrain from placing restrictions on its dissemination and use. He advocated that the Senate make GPO subject to the same type of guidelines.

Jones’ company has already been harmed by competition arising from the government’s National Technical Information Service. He expressed grave concerns that this agency, and perhaps others, are intentionally ignoring important aspects of PRA. “Despite all the effort and time involved in crafting this statute, its spirit and mandates are being ignored. Without the intervention of Congress, IIA is fearful that PRA will remain little more than words,” he said.

Dunn and Jones expressed the desire to see greater congressional attention paid to enforcement of PRA and its principles. They emphasized that PRA principles are designed to achieve a greater public access to government information from both government and private sector sources.

IIA is a trade association of companies that produce and distribute information products and services worldwide. The Association’s 550 members include content producers, telecommunications and infrastructure companies, online service operators, Internet service providers, financial services companies, software producers and other companies that create, manage and distribute information.

NewsBank, inc. is a mid-sized information service provider with facilities in Connecticut, Vermont and Florida. Begun 25 years ago, NewsBank now employs 400 people and provides microfiche, CD-ROM, and online products incorporating over 1,000 information sources. NewsBank products contain information gathered from newspapers, newswires, business journals, and periodicals, as well as historical and scholarly documents and are sold to customers worldwide.

For transcripts of these testimonies, please contact Sheri Rene Robey (IIA) at 202/986-0280, or visit IIA’s web site at www.infoindustry.org.

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U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **1997**

Time	Tasks	Lead People
May	Draft job ad. Have Commissioners revise. Have Department of Education review. Prepare final ad.	NCLIS office, Commissioners, Dept. of Education
May-June	Place job ad in/with/on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCLIS' Web site • Office of Personnel Management • AMERICAN LIBRARIES • CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION • LIBRARY HOTLINE • LIBRARY JOURNAL 	NCLIS office
May	Determine advisors for search and portions of search with which they might be involved -- e.g., personnel specialists from Dept. of Ed., Office of Personnel Mgt., search firms; individuals in library/information positions in the DC area.	NCLIS search committee
May, June	Develop criteria for evaluating applications and questions applicants will be asked to answer in writing.	NCLIS search committee, advisors
May, June, July 1-15	Acknowledge applications and enclose criteria and questions. Request letters from references listed on applications or resumes. Respond to any questions from applicants or potential applicants or special requests for information.	Co-Chair, Search Committee, and NCLIS office
July 17-18	Using applications, accompanying material, letters from references and applicants' written answers to questions, narrow field to 10 applicants.	NCLIS search committee
July 21-25	Notify applicants not selected for interviews of the decision. Notify 10 applicants of schedule and location for interviews.	NCLIS office
Aug.	Structure process and content for interviews.	NCLIS search committee

(over)

Sept. 22-24	Interview 10 candidates. Select 3 for full Commission to interview.	NCLIS search committee
	Notify 3 finalists of schedule and location for interviews.	Search comm. co-chair
Oct.	Structure process and content for interviews of 3 candidates	NCLIS search committee
Oct. 29-31	Interview candidates and select a candidate.	Full Commission
	Offer the position.	NCLIS Chair
	When position is accepted by one candidate, notify applicants not selected of the decision	.

nclis\search\tasks